

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim 17 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 15, 16 and 18 have been amended. These amendments are intended to better conform the claims to US patent practice. They are not intended to narrow the scope of the claims.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 1-8, 12-14, 18 and 19.

35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly be directed to data structures not claimed as embodied in computer readable medium. Applicant has amended claims 15 and 16 in response to the rejections. As a result, Applicant requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

Prior Art Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ando et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,901,208). Applicant traverses these rejections because Ando et al. fails to disclose or suggest all of the claim limitations.

Regarding claim 9, the Examiner asserts that the Ando et al. TV tuner, video encoder 1553, audio encoder 1554 and sub-picture encoder 1555 of figure 19 (col. 23, lines 28-48) correspond to the claimed manage unit. We first note that the Examiner also asserts that the TV tuner is the claimed receive unit. Therefore, it is improper for the Examiner to also assert that the TV tuner is part of the manage unit.

Next, in the claimed invention, the “program information” is not the same as the actual program. For example, an example of the program information is an indication of whether the program can be recorded (see page 10 of the Specification). Thus, the manage unit is required to analyze information about the program, not the program itself. We note, however, that the Examiner may argue that sub-picture signal component is “program information.” If the Applicant disagrees that the sub-picture signal is not the same as program information, please let us know.

In addition, the Ando et al. encoders (items 1553, 1554 and 1555) do not “analyze” program information. Rather, the encoders simply convert the format of the input digital signal. See col. 24, lines 1-29. Therefore, for this reason as well, Ando et al. does not disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

Regarding claims 10 and 11, they should be allowable at least based on their dependence from claim 9.

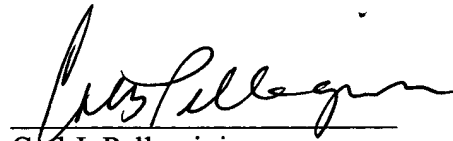
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
USSN: 09/850,007

Q64408

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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